

Federal Jury Indicts U. S.-German League As Nazi Agents' Front 27 Members Charged With Conspiracy to Spread Propaganda.

By the Associated Press.

Attorney General Biddle announced a Federal grand jury at Newark, N. J., returned an indictment today charging the German-American Vocational League, Inc., a subsidiary and 27 officers and members with illegally conspiring to act as Nazi agents without proper notification to the United States Government.

The Attorney General said the return of the indictment climaxed "one of the most complex and widespread investigations undertaken by the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

The German American Vocational League, Mr. Biddle said, has headquarters in New York and branches in Rochester, Newark, Philadelphia, Detroit, Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Kansas City, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle.

Spread Propaganda.

The indictment charged that the league, under direction of the German Reich, "served the interests of the same by making use of its local

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Indictments

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chapters for the purpose of spreading and disseminating the propaganda issued by the government of the German Reich."

The principal objective of this propaganda, the Government charged, was to obtain acceptance of National Socialism in the United States and to prevent American participation in the war.

Mr. Biddle said the indictment set out alleged relationship between the league and the National Socialist Workers party in Germany from January, 1933, to January, 1942, the period of the alleged conspiracy.

The defendants were accused of conspiring to violate the Notification Act by acting as agents of a foreign government without prior notice to the Secretary of State and with violating the Foreign Agents Registration Act by failing to register properly with the Justice Department.

\$10,000 Fine Possible.

Penalties provided under the conspiracy statute are imprisonment for not more than two years or a fine of not to exceed \$10,000, or both.

The Justice Department said three of the individuals named in the indictment were in Germany and 24 in the United States. Of those in this country, one was in the Army, one in jail, two interned, three excluded from the West Coast by the Army and 17 at liberty.

Mr. Biddle announced the following were named in the indictment:

German-American Vocational League, Inc., also known as DAB (Deutsch-Amerikanische Berufsgemeinschaft), described as directly affiliated with the German Labor Front.

DAB Recreational Resort, Inc., New York corporation owned by DAB and consisting of Camp Bergwald at Pompton Lakes, N. J.

Fritz Schroeder, New York, national leader of DAB and president of Recreational Resort, Inc.

Fred Buttig, former national leader of DAB, now in Germany.

Youth Leader Named.

Joseph Lieblein, New York, vice president, treasurer and youth leader of DAB, whom the Just-

Department said recently was inducted into the Army and stationed at Camp Ripley, Minn.

Otto Greiner, Chicago, national deputy in charge of the Middle West district.

Hans Flohr, Rochester, N. Y., an official of the Rochester branch of DAB.

Emil Socha, New York, editor of the DAB magazine, Der Deutsche Nord-Amerika.

Theodore Koehn, New York, editor of the DAB magazine In Retrospect.

Gustav Schmidt, Chicago, member of the national Board of Directors and district leader of the Middle West district.

Hermann Gastreich, Kansas City, Mo., official of the Kansas City branch.

One Barred From East.

Albert Keisler, member of the national Board of Directors and formerly of New York, where, the Justice Department said, he was barred from the Eastern Defense Command, now living in Detroit.

Karl T. Marx, New York, contributor to DAB publications.

John Kobbe, Rochester, treasurer of the local branch of DAB.

Karl Krausz, Rochester, leader of the local branch of DAB.

Otto Bremmer, Philadelphia, leader of the local branch of DAB, now interned.

Walter Schall, officer of the San Francisco branch, now in Salt Lake City.

Herman Warth, Guttenburg, N. J., member of the national board of directors.

Fritz Zeglin, American representative of the German labor front and former consulate in New York, now in Germany.

One Returned to Germany.

Kurt Beyer, formerly an officer of DAB in San Francisco and employee of the German consulate there, now in Germany.

Hans Nissen, Chicago, local branch officer.

Emil Schneider, San Francisco, now in Denver.

Hans Meissner, Philadelphia, local branch officer.

Guenther Gibbe, San Francisco, local branch officer, now interned.

Franz K. Erenz, Los Angeles, local branch officer, now in San Quentin Penitentiary for violation of the California sedition law.

Hans Bioernsen, Los Angeles, local branch officer of DAB.

Albert Robert Bertram, New York, DAB national secretary.

Emil Roedel, San Francisco, former secretary of the German-American Chamber of Commerce and active in local DAB affairs.

Paul F. L. Sievers, San Francisco, local officer of DAB, now living in Denver.